

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The light shield plate of claim 46 29, wherein the light shield plate comprises polarization plates for each of the image lights for the left and right eyes.

28. (Currently Amended) The light shield plate of claim 46 29, wherein the light shield plate comprises liquid crystal plates for each of the image lights for the left and right eyes.

29. (New) A device for picking up a stereoscopic image, comprising:
an image pickup element to which an image light for a left eye and an image light for a right eye are guided for picking up an image for the left eye and an image for the right eye which are used as a stereoscopic image and given an appropriate visual angle;

a light shield plate having two openings defined therein so that one light that has passed through one of those two openings in said light shield plate becomes the image light for the left eye, and the other light that has passed through the other opening in said light shield plate becomes the image light for the right eye;

two polarizing plates, one being disposed on one of those openings of said light shield plate and the other being disposed on the other of those openings of said light shield plate, such

that one image light that has passed through one of those polarizing plates is polarized into a polarized light and its vibration plane is rotated at 90 degrees to a vibration plane of image light that has passed through the other polarizing plate;

a liquid crystal plate to which the image light for the left eye and the image light for the right eye are guided which alternately takes a non-rotation state where the image light that has been polarized into a polarized light by said polarizing light plate is allowed to pass without changing the orientation of its vibration plane and a rotation state where the image light that has been polarized into a polarized light by said polarizing plate is allowed to pass after its vibration plane has been rotated; and

a selection polarizing plate to which the image light for the left eye that has passed through the liquid crystal plate and the image light for the right eye that has passed through the liquid crystal plate are guided, said selection polarizing plate has the same direction of polarization as that of one of those polarizing plates,

wherein said image pickup element alternately picks up the image light for the left eye and the image light for the right eye,

wherein said liquid crystal plate and said selection polarizing plate are placed just in front of said image pickup element, said liquid crystal plate and said selection polarizing plate are packed together, and said light shield plate is disposed in a top portion of the device, and

wherein said device comprises a first housing for holding said liquid crystal plate, said selection polarizing plate and said image pickup element therein, and a second housing for

holding said light shield plate therein, wherein said second housing is freely attached to and removable from said first housing.

30. (New) The device for picking up a stereoscopic image as claimed in claim 29, further comprising one objective lens system that allows the image light for the left eye and the image light for the right eye to pass.

31. (New) The device for picking up a stereoscopic image as claimed in claim 29, further comprising one objective lens system that allows the image light for the left eye and the image light for the right eye to pass,

wherein said light shield plate is disposed in an optical path between said objective lens system and said image pickup element to shield the image light that has passed through said objective lens system so that a light that has passed through one of the openings in said light shield plate becomes the image light for the left eye, and another light that has passed through the other opening in said light shield plate becomes the image light for the right eye.

32. (New) The device for picking up a stereoscopic image as claimed in claim 29, wherein the two openings are disposed eccentrically from the optical axis of said objective lens system by regular distances, respectively.

33. (New) The device for picking up a stereoscopic image as claimed in claim 29, wherein said light shield plate is disposed in proximity to an image sided principle point of said objective lens system

34. (New) The device for picking up a stereoscopic image as claimed in claim 29, wherein said objective lens system comprises one objective lens, and said light shield plate is disposed close to any surface of said objective lens.

35. (New) The device for picking up a stereoscopic image as claimed in claim 29, wherein said objective lens and said light shield plate are integrated with each other, said image pickup element, said liquid crystal plate and said selection polarization plate are integrated together, and said image pickup element, said liquid crystal plate and said selection polarization plate are separatable from said objective lens and said light shield plate.